

The Indo-Iranian Caland System

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The term “Caland System” is generally used to refer to a derivational system in which a certain subset of adjectives regularly substitutes a certain subset of suffixes when making comparative, superlative, adjective abstract, and first and second member compositional forms. Typical here in Indo-Iranian are *ra*- and *u*-stem adjectives, primary comparative and superlative forms, *s*-stem, root noun and *man*-stem (in Indic) adjective abstracts, and *i*-stem compound first and *s*-stem compound second members. For clear examples of the type, cf. e.g.

Adjective	Comparative/ Superlative	Adjective Abstract/ Substantive	Compositional First Member	Compositional Second Member
Ved. <i>pr̥thú-</i> ‘broad’ OYAv. <i>pərəθu-</i> ‘broad, wide, expansive’	<i>práthīyas-</i> ‘broader’ <i>práthiṣṭha-</i> ‘broadest’	<i>práthas-</i> n. ‘breadth; extension’ <i>prathimán-</i> m. ‘id.’ YAv. <i>fraθah-</i> n. ‘id.’	<i>pr̥thuśrávas-</i> PN ‘the one who has wide- ranging fame’ <i>píṭhīnas-</i> PN ‘the one who has a broad nose’ YAv. <i>pərəθu.</i> <i>varah-</i> ‘having a broad chest’	<i>sáprathas-</i> ‘extending oneself’ YAv. <i>baē.ərəzu.</i> <i>fraθah-</i> ‘having a breadth of two fingers’
Ved. <i>tigmá-</i> ‘sharp’ YAv. <i>tiṅra-</i> ‘id.’	<i>téjīyas-</i> ‘sharper’ <i>téjiṣṭha-</i> ‘sharpest’	<i>téjas-</i> n. ‘edge; sharpness’ YAv. <i>stij-</i> f. ‘point’	YAv. <i>tižīaršti-</i> ‘having a sharp spear’	

Despite these relatively clear outlines, there are still several issues associated with this system that remain unresolved. These are: What types of adjectives are likely to participate in the Caland system? Given that Caland system adjectives regularly pair with stative, inchoative and factitive verbal forms in the other Indo-European languages, is it possible to identify verbal formations that correlate with these adjectives in Indo-Iranian? And, finally, does deverbative derivation play a role in the system? This paper sets out to resolve these questions. It argues: (1) that Caland system adjectives belong to the “property concept” adjective semantic subclass and constitute the basic core of this class in Indo-Iranian; (2) that it is possible to identify at least six verbal types – all primary – that served to provide the stative, inchoative and factitive forms for Caland system adjectives in Indo-Iranian; and (3) that the adjective and adjective abstract forms in the system stand in a close derivational relationship with their corresponding verbal forms and pattern as deverbative formations.